

Serial Number 10/777,160
Navy Case No. 96,106
Preliminary Amendment for divisional patent application

REMARKS

The foregoing preliminary amendment to the present divisional application involves amendments to the specification and to the claims. The amendments to the specification involve the addition of paragraphs pertaining to cross-referencing and to government rights. Also reference to the Kowalski patent, cited of record by the Examiner during prosecution of the parent application, is added as prior art background in the specification. Because two new paragraphs are added, the amendments to the specification are presented in a substitute specification to avoid confusion related to paragraph numbering.

With respect to the foregoing amendments to the claims, original claims 1-9 covering the apparatus invention elected for prosecution in the parent application are canceled in favor of claims 10-12 covering the method invention of the present divisional application. Claim 10 is the non-elected method claim 10 in the parent application, which is fully supported by the original disclosure. Claim 11 corresponds to the cancelled apparatus claim 1 in the parent application. Claim 12, which depends from claim 11, adds the temperature limitation set forth in claim 10 to the method as defined in claim 11.

Applicant believes that claims 10-12 distinguish over the prior art of record, and therefore respectfully requests an allowance of the present divisional application as now amended. Should the Examiner feel that there are issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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